

5-12
B1
1 1. **(amended)** A method, executed by a node on a network, of transmitting identifying information about the node, the method comprising:

- 2
3 (a) determining a current [node identifier] NIC address value;
4 (b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former [node identifier] NIC
5 address value for the node; and
6 (c) transmitting the current [node identifier] NIC address value and the former [node identifier] NIC address value.
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1 2. **(amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein [(1) the value of the node identifier for
2 any particular node in the network is dependent on one or more node-identification attributes of that node,
3 and (2)] determining the current node identifier value includes an attempt to detect the
4 then-current NIC address value. [values of said one or more node-identification attributes.]

1 3. **(amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein the attempt to detect the then-
2 current NIC address value [said one or more node-identification attributes fails to detect at least one
3 of said node-identification attributes] is unsuccessful, and further comprising (i) retrieving,
4 from a data storage at the node, a stored value containing the result of a past live detection of the then-current NIC address value, [said one or more node-identification attributes,] referred to as a previously-detected [node identifier] NIC address value; and (ii) transmitting the previously-detected [node identifier] NIC address value.
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1 (4. **(canceled)**)

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1 5. **(amended)** The method of [claim 4] claim 1, wherein the NIC address value
2 comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

1 ⁵ 6. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the former [node identifier] NIC address
2 value is redundantly stored in multiple partitions within the data storage at the node.

1 ⁶ 7. (amended) The method of claim 6, wherein (x) each copy of the former [node
2 identifier] NIC address value is associated with a timestamp, and (y) retrieving the former
3 [node identifier] NIC address value comprises retrieving the respective copy associated with
4 the most recent timestamp.

G1 Sub. B2
1 8. (amended) A method, executed by a server node on a network, for recording,
2 in a database, information about a client node, comprising:

3 (a) receiving information from the client node, said information including
4 node-identification information for the client node that includes (i) a current [node-
5 identifier] NIC address value, and (ii) a former [node-identifier] NIC address value; and

6 (b) storing, in a record in the database associated with the node-
7 identification information, the current node-identifier value and the former node-identifier
8 value.

1 (9. (canceled))

1 ⁸ 10. (amended) The method of [claim 9] claim 8, wherein the NIC address value
2 comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

Sub. B3
1 11. (amended) A program storage device readable by a processor in the node of
2 a specified one of claims 1 through 3, 5 through 7, and 21 through 23, and encoding a

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A

3 program of instructions including instructions for performing the operations recited in the
4 specified claim.

1 12. A program storage device readable by a processor in the server node of a
2 specified one of claims 8 [through] and 10 and encoding a program of instructions includ-
3 ing instructions for performing the operations recited in said specified claim.

1 13. **(amended)** In a node on a network, a data store comprising a machine-
2 readable data structure accessible to a processor in the node and containing node-
3 identification information for the client node that includes (i) a current [node identifier] NIC
4 address value, and (ii) a former [node identifier] NIC address value.

1 (14. **(canceled)**)

1 ¹⁰~~14~~. **(amended)** The data store of [claim 14] ⁹⁸claim 13, wherein the NIC address
2 value that constitutes the current node-identifier value includes a signature portion and a
3 pseudorandomly generated portion.

1 ¹²~~16~~. In a node on a network, a data store comprising:
2 (a) a plurality of machine-readable data structures accessible to a processor
3 in the node;
4 (b) each said data structure containing node-identification information for
5 the client node that includes (i) a current node-identifier value, and (ii) a former node-
6 identifier value.
7 (c) each said data structure being associated with a timestamp.

1 17. The data store of claim 16, wherein the current node-identifier value is a NIC
2 address value.

1 ¹¹~~18~~. The data store of claim ¹⁰~~17~~, wherein the NIC address value comprises a signa-
2 ture portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

1 ¹³~~19~~. In a server node on a network, that includes a client node, a machine-readable
2 data structure accessible to a processor in the server node, comprising a current NIC ad-
3 dress value for the client node and a former NIC address value for the client node.

1 ¹⁴~~20~~. The machine-readable data structure of claim ¹³~~19~~, wherein the current NIC ad-
2 dress value comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

Sub. B6
1 ~~21.~~ (new) A method, executed by a node on a network, of transmitting identi-
2 fying information about the node, the method comprising:

3 (a) determining a current node identifier value, where (1) the node identi-
4 fier value for any particular node in the network is dependent on one or more node-
5 identification attributes of that node, and (2) determining the current node identifier value
6 includes an attempt to detect the then-current values of said one or more node-
7 identification attributes;

8 (b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former node identifier
9 value for the node; and

10 (c) transmitting the current node identifier value and the former node
11 identifier value. *